



Aaron Tippin lights up station parade field on Spirit of America tour

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Marines beat out high school all-stars in Toys for Tots flag football game

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Friday: Partly cloudy
High: 77 Low: 51
Saturday: Partly cloudy
High: 74 Low: 51
Sunday: Partly cloudy
High: 69 Low: 49

Serving Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona

DESERT WARRIOR

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Miramar F-18 crashes in San Diego neighborhood, killing 4

Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto
Desert Warrior Staff

A Marine Fighter Training Squadron 101 F/A-18D Hornet, crashed into a suburban San Diego neighborhood about two miles west of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Monday, killing four.

The pilot of the jet ejected safely at approximately noon and landed in a nearby canyon.

Two homes were destroyed and three others were damaged, said Maurice Luque, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department spokesperson.

SDFRD responded to the scene in six minutes, and at one point 16 engines were on scene, but could not save two of the homes.

As of Tuesday, five people have made damage claims to the Miramar Joint Law Center.

The cause of the crash, which happened after training exercises aboard the USS Lincoln, is currently being investigated.

The pilot is in stable condition at Naval Medical Center San Diego, Marine officials said.

The pilot—part of the 3rd Marine Air Wing—radioed that there was trouble and tried to steer the aircraft to an uninhabited canyon, Marine officials said.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Justis T. Beauregard

San Diego firefighters survey damage to a home destroyed in an F/A-18D Hornet crash two miles west of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Monday. The crash damaged three homes and destroyed two, killing four.

Standing proud



Photo by Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto

A joint color guard from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and Army Yuma Proving Ground raise the American flag at the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce Armed Forces Park dedication ceremony Wednesday in downtown Yuma. The park, which honors service members past and present, was recently completed eight years after initial groundbreaking. The one-acre park was built entirely with donations of community members labor, materials and money.

Cpl. Laura A. Mapes
Desert Warrior Staff

The Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 supply department here began renovating their warehouse last week for the Boeing Company to store AV-8B Harrier maintenance materials in order to speed up parts repair and delivery.

Boeing signed a contract with the Department of Defense in June 2007 to serve as a middle man between original equipment manufacturers and

depot level vendors to keep Harriers from being grounded due to repairs.

Currently, the military deals directly with numerous original equipment manufacturers for parts, which slows down the repair process because of delivery time.

What Boeing will now be able to do is present those original manufacturers with a long-term contract, which is preferred because it provides them a steady source of income, explained Rick Tidwell, a Boeing contractor working at MALS-13. This gives the manufacturers time and money to prepare and expedite the materials, as well as make repairs.

Testing...one, two, three...

New mass notification system installed on station

Cpl. Laura A. Mapes
Desert Warrior Staff

Testing began Tuesday on the new mass notification system, installed throughout the station by the physical security department.

The system, installed Nov. 25, is designed to communicate emergency warnings and messages from the commanding officer to station personnel and residents.

In addition to pre-existing speakers on and around the flightline, four large towers garnishing 960 watt speakers were installed at various locations around station.

Building 859, the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 barracks, has already been wired with speakers and the new barracks being built adjacent to 859 will include the system as well.

Speaker towers are strategically located in the housing area on Loesch Street, in front of the bachelor officer's quarters, behind the station bowling alley, and also behind the chow hall to ensure all information can be heard throughout the station.

When all four of the loud speakers are operational it should sound like a voice in unison, said Michael Gibbs, station physical security specialist.

"We don't want the kids to be panicking when we are testing ... they are really, really loud," said Gibbs.

Gates to remain as Defense Secretary

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates will remain in the Pentagon's top post, while a former Marine commandant will serve as the national security advisor when President-elect Barack Obama's administration takes office.

Obama, who also announced his other nominees for top national security posts Dec. 1, cited the necessity of continuity as the United States fights wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as his rationale for asking Gates to stay.

In a statement, Gates said he is "deeply honored" that the president-elect asked him to continue serving.

"Mindful that we are engaged in two wars and face other serious challenges at home and around the world, and with a profound sense of personal responsibility to and for our men and women in uniform and their families, I must do my duty—as they do theirs," Gates said in his statement. "How could I do otherwise?"

"Serving in this position for nearly two years—and especially the opportunity to lead our brave and dedicated soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and defense civilians—has been the most gratifying experience of my life. I am honored to continue to serve them and our country, and I will be honored to serve President-elect Obama," Gates said.

Retired Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones Jr. has also been announced to be the national security advisor. Jones retired in 2007 after serving as NATO's supreme allied commander

for Europe and commander of U.S. European Command. Before that assignment, he was the Marine Corps commandant from 1999 to 2003. Jones received his commission through Georgetown University in Washington in 1967 and served in Vietnam. He received the Silver Star for his actions there. As NATO commander, he led the expansion of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. As national security advisor, he will help to coordinate all aspects of U.S. power in the war on terror. He is currently chairman of the Atlantic Council of the United States. If approved, he would replace Stephen Hadley.

Obama also announced his intent to nominate the following people to serve in his administration:

[see GATES page 4](#)

MALS-13 partners with Boeing for more efficient maintenance

Previously, if a Harrier part needed to be repaired, the squadron often had to order the piece from vendors as far as the United Kingdom, which can take up to a month to receive, said Capt. Duane Enos, MALS-13 assistant supply officer in charge.

"Harriers are getting so old that they don't make (a lot of the parts) for them anymore," said Enos. "Boeing, in conjunction with some other vendors across the U.S. and the United Kingdom, make these extra parts that are hard to come by. They ship them to us, which takes a long time ... it keeps that aircraft down for that time as well."

While Boeing will keep most of the Harrier

parts in a warehouse in North Carolina, Tidwell will manage a storefront here in Yuma for the most commonly needed parts.

The aim of the partnership is to keep those parts on station and avoid having aircraft downed for long periods of time, because that takes away from training and flight operations, said Enos.

The Boeing contractors will conduct trend analyses on parts that are constantly being replaced or repaired, and once they figure the root of the

[see MALS-13 page 4](#)

Service programs strive to strengthen military marriages, curb divorce rate

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Service members and their spouses are flocking to a broad array of programs to help them strengthen their family relationships as the services step up efforts to curb divorce rates. Military divorce rates rose by .1 percent to 3.4 percent during fiscal year 2008, with 492 more divorces than the previous year, said Army Lt. Col Les’ Melnyk, a Pentagon spokesman. Military-wide, 25,750 marriages ended in divorce last year.

The Marine Corps, with 3,077 divorces last year, experienced the biggest increase, from 3.3 percent in fiscal year 2007 to 3.7 percent.

The Army rate also increased to 3.5 percent with 10,200 divorces last year. The Army reported a 3.3 percent rate in fiscal year 2007, with 9,134 divorces.

Meanwhile, divorce rates dropped .2 percent last year in the Navy and remained stable in the Air Force. The Navy reported a 3 percent rate in fiscal year 2008, with 5,441 divorces representing a 618 decrease from the previous year’s number.

The Air Force reported a 3.5 percent divorce rate in both fiscal years 2007 and 2008, but the actual number of divorces dropped by 618—to 7,032.

Comparing these statistics to civilian divorce rates is difficult, officials said, but most sources agree that about 50 percent of first marriages end in divorce in the United States. The highest incidence of civilian divorces is within the 20- to 29-year-old population, which also makes up the largest percentage of the military.

Recognizing the hardships military life often imposes—and the challenges it can place on family relationships—the military services

are working to buck societal trends through a full range of outreach programs. The programs are offered through the services’ family support, chaplain and mental health counseling networks and range from support groups for spouses of deployed troops to weekend retreats for military couples.

The Marine Corps provides various programs and counseling opportunities to assist couples in enriching their marriages and dealing with stresses inherent in the military lifestyle, said Greg Gordon, from the Marine Corps’ Personal and Family Readiness Division.

These include the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program, a two-day workshop that teaches couples how to manage conflict, solve problems, communicate effectively, and preserve and enhance their commitment and friendship. Participants begin the program by taking a marriage survey to help them evaluate their relationship and identify problems before they become serious. The four top problems generally involve communication, children and parenting, money and sexual intimacy, Gordon said.

In addition, a retreat program called the Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation is designed to help Marines and their family members develop personal and spiritual resources.

The Army also has numerous programs aimed at helping couples. The goal is to build resiliency in soldiers—58 percent of them married—and the families who stand by them, said Lt. Col. George Wright, an Army spokesman.

The programs focus on communication, intimacy and conflict management, which research shows increases marriage satisfaction and reduces marital challenges.

“Military families have to adjust to more transitions than the typical family,” said Lt. Col. Carleton Birch, a chaplain from the Army’s

Chief of Chaplains Office.

The centerpiece of the Army program is “Strong Bonds,” a program initiated by commanders and led by chaplains that helps soldiers and their families build strong relationships. Strong Bonds has four parts: a general couples program, programs tailored for couples preparing for or returning from deployments, and programs for families and single soldiers.

Much of the training is provided in a retreat-style format so soldiers and their families can get away from their daily routines “to focus on their important relationships,” Wright said.

Participation in the program has doubled every year since the program started five years ago, Birch reported. So far, more than 60,000 couples have participated in the training.

The National Institutes of Health, which recently completed the first year of a five-year study evaluating the program’s effectiveness in building family resiliency, found “encouraging early results,” Birch said.

Meanwhile, an attendee gave a full-fledged endorsement of the program’s value after attending a recent Strong Bonds session at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

“This is the first time since getting back from Iraq in April where I have felt that I am capable as well as confident enough to lead my family in a loving and caring environment,” he said. “The tools that I have learned will serve us a lifetime. This should be mandatory training for all married couples.”

While praising the benefits these programs offer families, officials said they recognize that strong marital and family relationships make better soldiers.

It also has an important impact on a soldier’s decision to re-enlist, Birch said. Quoting other Army leaders, he said, “The Army recruits soldiers, but it retains families.”

‘tis the season to be jolly: Beating the holiday blues

Diane Mayer

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

The holiday season can bring with it many feelings, ranging from excitement and wonder to sadness and disappointment. Anxiety about separations or losses can be intensified during the holidays. Uncertainty about the length of deployments and mission dangers can add to the stress of separation.

Here are some suggestions to help reduce holiday stress:

Set realistic expectations. It is easy to focus on how things used to be. Sit down with family members and discuss what is important to each of you right now. Look for new activities that could become new family traditions.

Make a calendar with specific holiday goals. Once a holiday goal like buying all the gifts or baking all the cookies is reached, reward yourself.

Establish a realistic budget. Overspending can result in year-round stress and the material aspects of the holidays can be overwhelming. Many times a homemade gift can be more meaningful. Coupons for services throughout the year can provide friends and family with happiness that outlasts the holiday season.

Buy gifts from catalogues or online. This can be an amazing time saver.

Many companies offer gift-wrapping and delivery directly to the recipient. It is a great way to avoid crowded stores and long lines at the post office. Use the time you saved to spend time doing things you enjoy.

Take care of yourself. In order to take care of others, you must first take care of yourself. Eat healthy meals at regular times. Get plenty of sleep and exercise. Even on your busiest days, schedule time for yourself. Think about activities in which you can participate and choose only those that will be enjoyable.

Emphasize family ties. Spend extra time with your children to make them feel safe and secure. Maintain established routines, including family dinners and bedtimes. Create an online photo scrapbook for a loved one who is deployed, to share holiday images with them during or after their deployment.

Reach out to others. Share activities and help others in your community. Participate in community activities that bring you in contact with others.

Life is full of changes—some good, some bad—and it can be difficult to adjust. Identify what is important and good in your life right now and focus on the future. TriWest is here to help you make it though the holidays. For more information, visit www.triwest.com, go the Beneficiary link and then Behavioral Health for tips and resources.

You can also save time during the busy holiday season by registering on www.triwest.com to manage your health care online, anytime from anywhere with an Internet connection.

friends. When I found both cul-de-sacs empty, my pulse rate started to pick up and I called Chaplain Hayler to give me a hand to help locate Seth.

We rode around the different neighborhoods and didn’t find him. I decided to call the provost marshal’s office. They were at my house immediately and began canvassing the various neighborhoods.

The sun was setting rapidly and dreadful thoughts were racing through my mind. With the recent rains, the base housing area had standing water all over the place, so I envisioned my son’s lifeless body being pulled out from under the water.

I then began to think to myself, “What’s worse: death or abduction?” Then I envisioned my little boy being stuffed into the trunk of a car only to have far worse things done to him after that.

As I was riding around the base with PMO, I felt like I was caving in on myself with worry. PMO was even searching vehicles that were heading off base! I can’t even begin to explain how sick I felt, but I can tell you that I wouldn’t wish that feeling on anyone.

After a frantic search that lasted nearly two hours from when I went to check on him at the park, I spotted a short, blonde-haired kid walking his electric motorcycle across a street four blocks from our house. I told

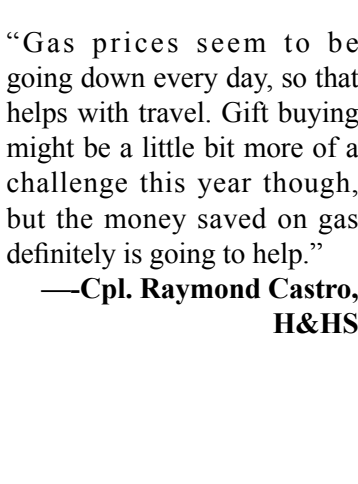
Street Talk

How has the current economic downturn affected your holiday plans?



“My plans haven’t changed. I am going home (southern Illinois) as I planned. Travel is always more expensive during the holidays, so it’s something that I expect.”

—Capt. Stephen Bost, H&HS



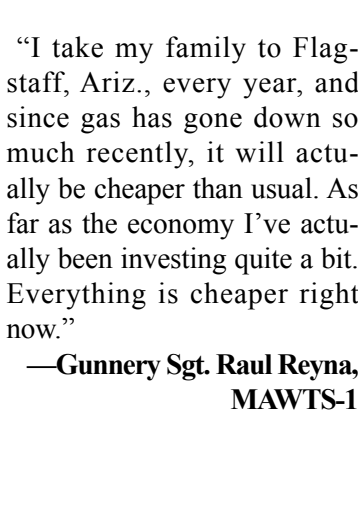
“Gas prices seem to be going down every day, so that helps with travel. Gift buying might be a little bit more of a challenge this year though, but the money saved on gas definitely is going to help.”

—Cpl. Raymond Castro, H&HS



“I’m holding back on how many gifts I’m buying at Christmas this year, because of the economic situation. I’m still going to get my family presents, but as far as friends, I’m not going to be able to get them what I wanted to earlier in the year.”

—Lance Cpl. Chris Harris, H&HS



“I take my family to Flagstaff, Ariz., every year, and since gas has gone down so much recently, it will actually be cheaper than usual. As far as the economy I’ve actually been investing quite a bit. Everything is cheaper right now.”

—Gunnery Sgt. Raul Reyna, MAWTS-1



Chapel Call

“FATHER AND SON”

Lt. Shawn Osborne

Station Protestant Chaplain

The Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving, my son Seth asked me if he could go to the park next to the track. The track is practically my backyard and Seth is good about asking permission to do something else if there is a change of plans, so I told him he could go.

About an hour went by and I went to the park to check on him. When I got to the park, there was nobody there. I didn’t panic—yet— but checked the two adjacent cul-de-sacs to see if Seth was playing with his

the driver, “Stop! That’s him! Let me out!”

I ran to Seth and scooped him up into my arms in the middle of the street. I squeezed him tight and bawled like a baby. I didn’t care that we were surrounded by a group of Marines. My son was alive!

The PMO Marines were professional, courteous and as anxious to find my son as I was, so they let me hug my son before taking statements.

Later that evening after I put my children to bed, I reflected more on what had occurred. For some reason I thought about Jesus being the Son of God (focusing on the “son” part).

As we kick into high gear for the Christmas season, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, which is only right. Let us not forget that Jesus was sent by God the Father. Jesus didn’t hit the scene as a 30-year-old man, but came to Earth as a baby. God sent Junior to save the world by dying on a cross for our sins.

God did for us what I know in my heart I would not be able to do with my own son. God did for us what he wouldn’t even let Abraham do to his son Isaac. John 3:16 isn’t really associated with Christmas, but it has Christmas written all over it: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

DESERT WARRIOR

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Station concert rocks in ‘a country kind of way’



Photos by Lance Cpl. Graham J. Benson

Fans cheer as country music star, Aaron Tippin, performs on the parade field Monday evening. Tippin considers it an honor to show his staunch military support whenever he has an opportunity. Around 2,500 people attended the performance.

Aaron Tippin performance draws thousands to station parade field



Country music star Aaron Tippin performs at a concert held on the station parade field Monday evening. The free concert was part of the Spirit of America Tour, which brings headline entertainment to stateside military bases.

Lance Cpl. Graham J. Benson
Desert Warrior Staff

Country music star Aaron Tippin performed on the station parade field Monday night. The concert was part of the Spirit of America tour which brings headline entertainment to stateside military bases. Tippin’s performance began at 6:30 p.m., as he and his band launched into a line-up including Tippin’s hits “Got it Honest,” “Working Man’s Ph.D.,” and the patriotic “Where The Stars And The Stripes And The Eagle Fly.” The concert also featured Tippin assembling a bicycle for donation to Toys for Tots. He presented the bike to Sgt. Anna Lima with the promise that it would be the first toy handed out in the local distribution of Toys for Tots gifts. “The concert was a complete hit,” said Bill Wyant, MCCS deputy director. “Aaron Tippin connects very well with the military and it’s obvious when you see him perform for them that he really enjoys doing it. We couldn’t have asked for a better performance.” MCCS estimated a turnout of 2,000-2,500 people, said Wyant. After Tippin’s initial performance, the crowd began chants of “encore” and after a brief lull in



Aaron Tippin assembles a bicycle on stage during his performance Monday evening on the parade field. Tippin often presents a bicycle for donation to Toys for Tots to a Marine during a performance. He estimates that he has assembled and donated more than 700 bicycles for the program throughout his career.

the action, he returned to play one more song, the popular, “Kiss This.” “We had a blast,” said Sgt. Willie Pepmiller, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 diesel mechanic, who attended the concert with his wife Karie. “I can remember listening to Aaron Tippin all the way back when I was in the third grade! I’ve seen him before in concert, so I knew it was going to be a great time. It’s great that they’ve put this together for us, and I hope we have more of them in the future.” Tippin recently returned from Iraq, where he performed at several military bases for service members. “It was a great time,” said Tippin. “We didn’t have any problems the whole time. I didn’t hear one mortar, explosion or round fired the whole time, which speaks volumes to what they’ve done over there. It’s such a great thing.” Tippin performed six concerts while in Iraq, including a special one in Basra. “They’ve tried to get some live entertainment for those guys (in Basra) ten times and something went wrong every time,” Tippin said. “So it was great for everything to finally work out and to get to perform for them. We all had a really good time there.”

End in sight for war in Iraq, Bush says

Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The war in Iraq isn’t over, but a successful end is in sight, thanks to hard work between the United States and Iraq, President George W. Bush said in his weekly radio address Dec. 6. “Earlier this week, Iraq’s Presidency Council approved two landmark agreements that will solidify Iraq’s democratic gains, affirm its sovereignty, and put its relations with the United States on a strong and steady footing,” he said. “The first agreement that America and Iraq have signed is called a strategic framework agreement.” This pact sets out a common vision for U.S.-Iraqi relations in the years ahead, he said. Under this agreement, the two nations will work together to bring greater stability to Iraq and the region. That will include working to promote stability in the region through trade and investment as well as supporting Iraq’s leaders and citizens. “Only a few years ago, such an agreement was unimaginable,” Bush said. “Terrorists were seizing new ground and using violence to divide the Iraqi people along sectarian lines and the nation was nearing the point of political collapse and civil war. Today, violence is down dramatically. The Iraqi military is growing in capability, taking the lead in the fight against the extremists, and working across sectarian lines. “There is hope in the eyes of young Iraqis for the first time in many years,” he added. The second agreement, a status of forces agreement, has the primary purpose of ensuring the protection of U.S. troops and Defense Department civilians as Iraq begins to exercise greater sovereignty.

After Iraqi forces assume the lead of security operations in all major population centers, all U.S. forces should be withdrawn from Iraq by 2011.

“It [also] lays out a framework for the withdrawal of American forces in Iraq,” Bush said. “This withdrawal will take place in two stages.” The first stage will occur next year, when Iraqi forces assume the lead for security operations in all major population centers, while U.S. combat forces move out of Iraqi cities and into an overwatch role, Bush said. After this transition has occurred, the drawdown of American forces will continue to the second stage, with all U.S. forces returning home from Iraq by the end of 2011. Bush acknowledged early differences of opinion about the initial decision to remove Saddam Hussein from power and the subsequent conduct of the war. But as the situation becomes more and more positive, he said, the country has an opportunity to adopt a new perspective. “Americans should be able to agree that it is in our nation’s strategic and moral interests to support the free and democratic Iraq that is emerging in the heart of the Middle East,” he said.

The president also acknowledged the sacrifices made to reach this point, including long separations from friends and family, and for many, the ultimate sacrifice. “Throughout the past eight years, I’ve seen the tremendous talent and courage of those who wear the uniform,” Bush said. “Their efforts have overthrown tyrants, made our nation safer, put terrorists on the run, and opened the door to liberty for more than 50 million people. “Now, thanks to their work in Iraq and the courage of the Iraqi people, a hopeful new era is dawning for their democracy and ours,” he said. Bush also conveyed his appreciation for the American people’s sacrifices.

Arizona OHVs soon to require annual fee

Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto
Desert Warrior Staff

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, owners of off-highway motor vehicles registered in Arizona will be required to purchase a vehicle decal for their license plate from the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles. The changes come as a way to increase revenue and maintain resources the vehicles damage, according to the Arizona Fish and Game Department. The cost of the decal is to be determined later this month, said Tracy Delgado, AFGD spokesperson. Decals are not for sale yet, but the funds raised will bolster resources for OHV use, including facilities, signs, maps, law enforcement and safety and educational programs. It will also help protect Arizona’s natural resources and designate trails for use. Some station OHV riders may have already paid a fee for using their vehicles. “I wouldn’t register my vehicle in Arizona with the new fee. My (all-terrain vehicle) is registered in Florida where a one-time fee has already been paid,” said Staff Sgt. Gordon Morse, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 workcenter supervisor. An OHV is classified as a vehicle weighing less than 1,800 pounds that is designed for use on unimproved terrain, such as an all-terrain vehicle or dirt bike. Since 1998, OHV use in Arizona is up 347 percent. OHVs registered outside of Arizona are not required to have a vehicle decal. For more information, visit <http://www.servicearizona.com>.



GATES ... from page 1

— New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state;
— Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano as secretary of homeland security;
— Eric H. Holder as attorney general; and
— Susan Rice to hold Cabinet rank as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Gates will not have to go through the Senate confirmation process. President George W. Bush nominated Gates as defense secretary in November 2006.

The Senate approved the nomination, and he was sworn into office in December 2006 to succeed Donald H. Rumsfeld. Gates will be the first Cabinet officer to continue serving in an administration from a different political party.

Clinton has represented New York since her election in 2000 and has served on the Senate Armed Services Committee. She served as the chairwoman of the Task Force on National Health Care Reform in 1993. She has supported military action in Afghanistan, and has opposed recent actions in Iraq. In the Senate, she sponsored legislation to increase the size of the Army and has consistently worked to help military families. If confirmed, she will replace Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

If confirmed, Napolitano would be responsible for the Coast Guard as part of her portfolio as homeland security secretary. A lawyer, she served as Arizona’s attorney general before being elected as governor in 2002. Napolitano would replace Michael B. Chertoff.

Holder served as deputy attorney general in the Clinton administration. He also has served as a judge, a prosecutor and as a front-line lawyer in the Justice Department. A native New Yorker, Holder received his law degree from Columbia University. If confirmed, he would succeed Michael Mukasey.

Rice served on the National Security Council in the Clinton administration as assistant secretary of state for African affairs. She will replace Zalmay Khalilzad in the U.N. post.

MALS-13 ... from page 1

problem, they will bring those parts to the manufacturer to fix the problems permanently, said Tidwell. As a result of these trend analyses, Boeing can also see how many and what type of parts will need to be stored at the warehouse in Yuma.

Based on a trend analysis, roughly one third of the more than 1,000 parts managed by Boeing will be kept in the warehouse here.

The renovation of the warehouse is slated to be finished by the end of January, and delivery of the materials and parts here should begin early February.



ARFF Marines test, choose new equipment



Photo by Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre

An Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marine tries out the TM60, a compressed air-foam system made by Crash Rescue Equipment Service Inc. for fires, Wednesday at the station burn tower. A total of 11 vendors came out, each with different equipment for station firefighters to test, question and ultimately choose from.

Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre
Desert Warrior Staff

Station Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting were joined by Marine firefighters from various bases nationwide to test and select new upgraded equipment from 11 different vendors Wednesday for use by firefighters Corpwide.

The annual Department of Defense ARFF conference, held in August 2008, decided the demonstration would be held here, due to variety of vendors within close proximity of the area, as well as the training area, said Master Sgt. William E. Aker, the materiel chief for ARFF here.

The rescue equipment includes chain saws, rescue saws, crow bars, chains, smoke

detectors, ventilation devices and extinguishers designed for convoy operations, said Aker.

“There’s a lot of outside the box thinking that has been prompted by the conflicts we’ve been involved in over the last few years,” said Aker.

This kind of vendor demonstration compliments what ARFF is already developing into.

“A lot of changes have been made to our MOS,” said Aker. “Because of that, it’s not the traditional cat stuck in a tree or house on fire. It’s more tactical and that’s what we’re looking at.”

ARFF is trying different things with the equipment, said Aker. They get out there with materials such as concrete, rebar and types of steel. During extrication training exercises ARFF has experimented cutting through these materials for situations on deployment

where they might encounter them.

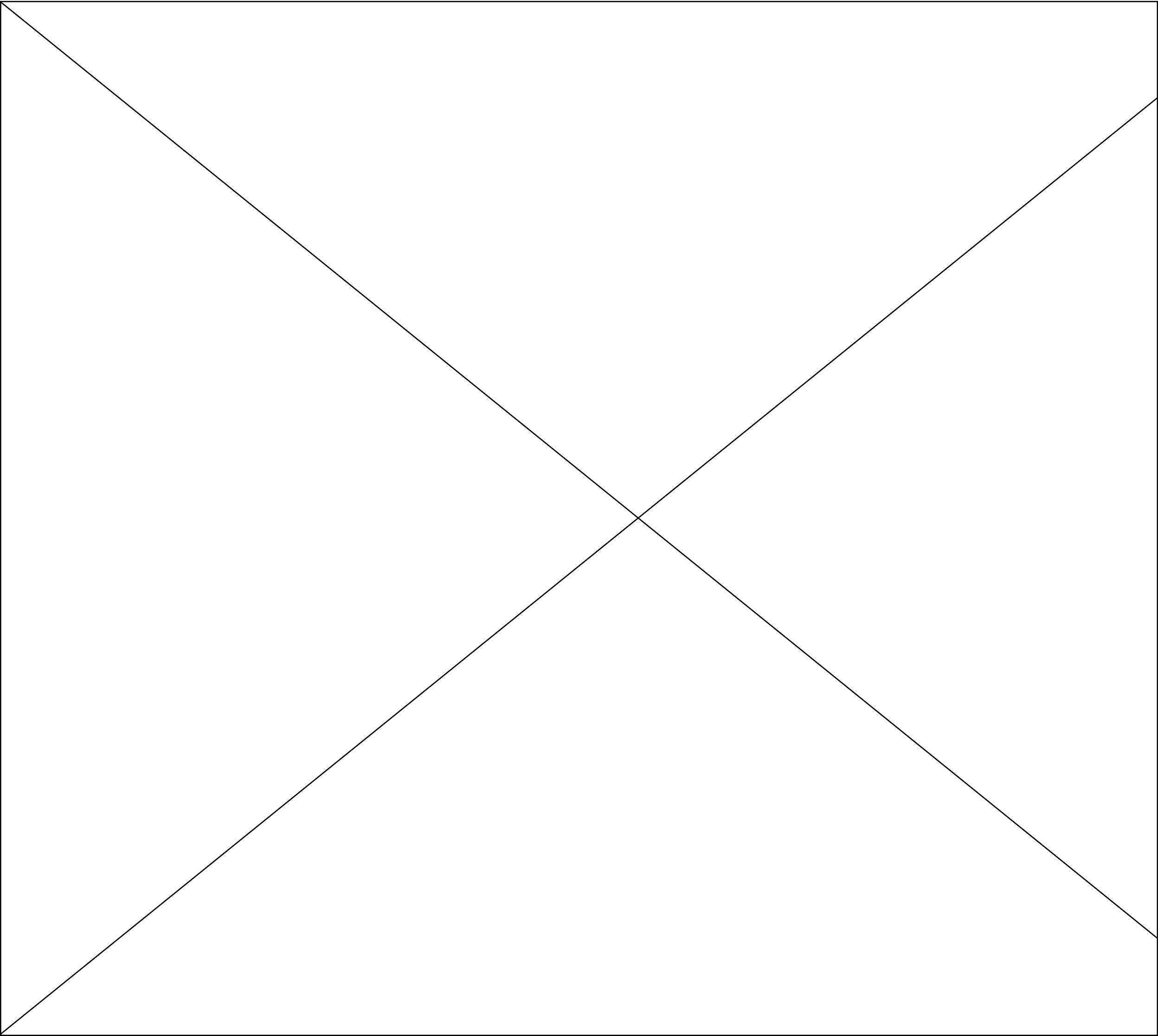
“Anything that we could think of, to see how this stuff measures up, because you just don’t know what you will be involved with,” said Aker.

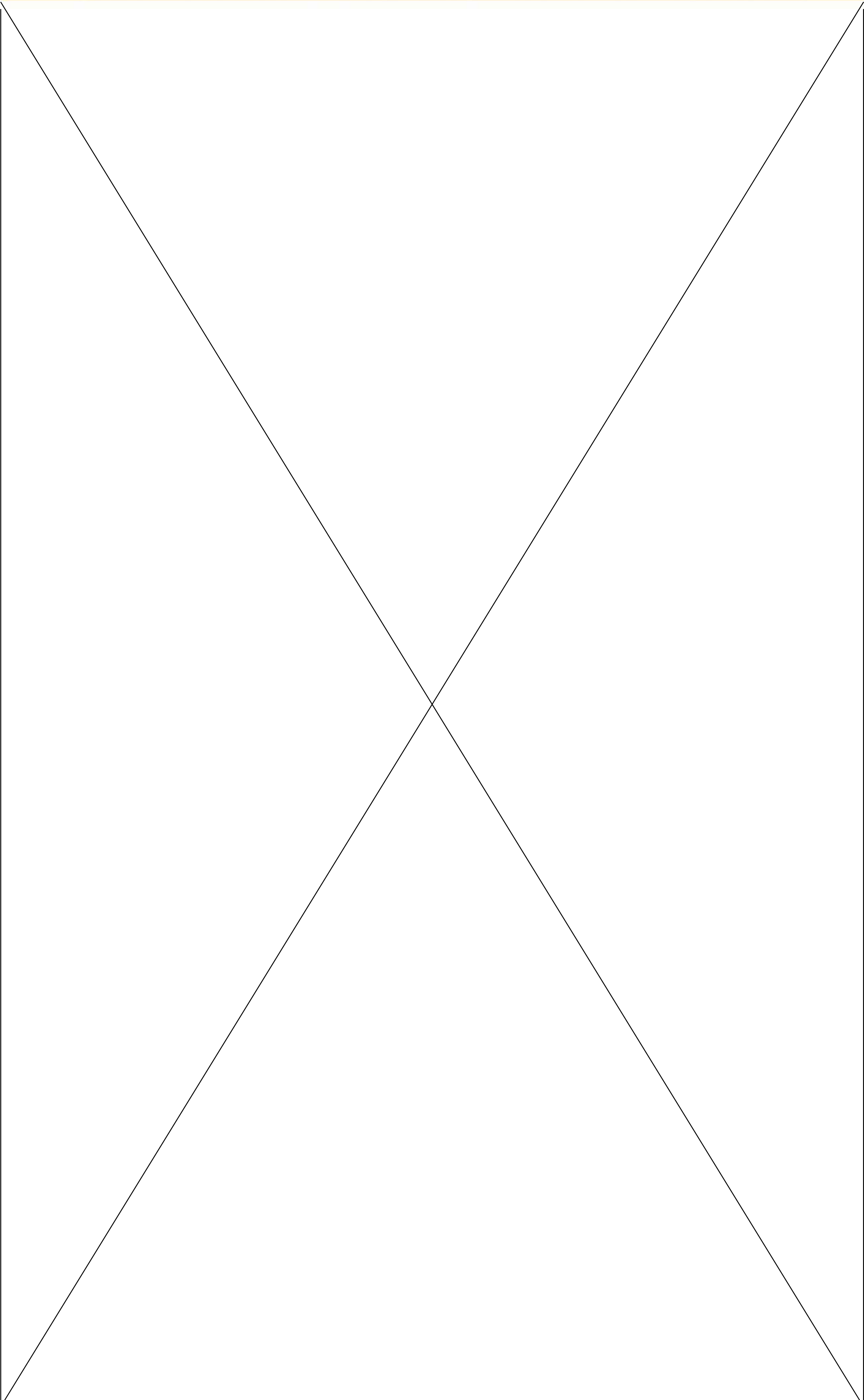
Vendors are aware of what the Marines are looking for and are showcasing a variety of equipment to meet their needs.

“We got a lot of vendors and they’re really on board with it because they know what we’re trying to do here,” said Aker, “we’re trying to update things and make changes.”

Once they have the results, they will send them up to Headquarters Marine Corps, said Aker.

The goal is to have an upgraded standardized equipment list for Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, said Aker. They want to make a change that makes sense and get it right the first time.





AT EASE

Head games



Photo by Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto

Gabriella Tapia, Marine Corps police academy role player, threatens to commit suicide while Michael Moore, academy cadet, attempts to calm her down in a training exercise outside building 852 Dec. 4 here. The current class of about 25 cadets, slated to graduate Wednesday, will be the second group of civilian Marine Corps police to graduate here.

News to Use

Station commissary hours changed for holidays

During the holidays, the station commissary hours will change on select dates.

Dec. 22, 23, 26, 30, 31 and Jan. 2 — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.,
Dec. 24, 27 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Dec. 25, 29, Jan. 1 — closed,
Dec. 28 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Jan. 3 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact the station commissary at 928-269-2245.

Intersection closed Dec. 13-14

The corner of Martini Avenue and Quilter Street will be closed for the weekend, due to construction on the new Marine Corps Exchange.

The closure should begin Saturday at approximately 7 a.m. and continue until Sunday at 5 p.m., said Rick Noble, station engineering technician.

Detours will be in place during the closure.

For more information, consult the Oct. 30 issue of the Desert Warrior, available at www.yuma.usmc.mil, or contact the station provost marshal's office at 928-269-2205.



In Theaters

Thursday

W. (PG-13)
7 p.m.

Friday

The Express (PG)
6 p.m.

Body of Lies (R)
9 p.m.

Saturday

High School Musical 3 (G)
4 p.m.

Pride and Glory (R)
7 p.m.

Sunday

Max Payne (PG-13)
5 p.m.

Monday

W. (PG-13)
7 p.m.

Tuesday


Quarantine (R)
7 p.m.

Wednesday

Free admission

High School Musical 3 (G)
7 p.m.

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Call 928-269-2358 or visit
<http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/theater.htm>



MESS HALL MENU

Weekdays
Breakfast: 5:30 - 7:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday
Breakfast/Brunch: 9 a.m. to noon
Dinner: 3 - 5 p.m.

Prices
For military without meal cards
Breakfast: \$2.10
Lunch and dinner: \$3.85

HOURS OF OPERATION

THURSDAY	LUNCH: Vegetable Barley Soup Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Herbed Baked Chicken Garlic Cheese Potatoes Club Spinach Succotash	DINNER: Hungarian Goulash w/ Noodles Asian BBQ Turkey Roast Rice Pilaf Vegetable Stir Fry Simmered Peas
FRIDAY	LUNCH: Fish Chowder Seafood Platter Spicy Beans & Sausage Potatoes Au Gratin Steamed Rice Green Beans	DINNER: Beef & Noodles Cajun Lightning Chicken Scalloped Potatoes Southern-style Greens Mixed Vegetables Jalapeño Corn Bread
SATURDAY	BRUNCH: Eggs Turkey Noodle Soup Cold Cereals Sausage Patties Oven-fried Bacon ... and more	DINNER: Mushroom Soup Steak Ranchero Roast Turkey Mashed Potatoes Southwestern Rice Broccoli
SUNDAY	BRUNCH: Eggs Grilled Ham Slices Oven-fried Bacon Pancakes / Waffles Chicken Sandwich ... and more	DINNER: Navy Bean Soup Grilled Steak Cajun Baked Fish Baked Potato Parmesan Rice Brussels Sprouts
MONDAY	LUNCH: Minestrone Soup Roast Beef White Bean Chicken Chili Steamed Rice Carrots Simmered Peas	DINNER: Turkey A la King Jerk Pork Loin Buttered Egg Noodles Islanders Rice Broccoli Italian Vegetable Blend
TUESDAY	LUNCH: Potato Soup Chili Macaroni Fish Vera Cruz Grilled Cheese Sandwich Spanish Rice Tangy Spinach	DINNER: Beef Pot Pie Bayou Chicken Orange Rice Cauliflower Combo Oven-browned Squash Cheese Drop Biscuits
WEDNESDAY	LUNCH: Bean w/ Bacon Soup Parmesan Basil Chicken Pasta Toscano Italian Roasted Potatoes Green Beans Garlic Bread	DINNER: Meatloaf Baked Stuffed Fish Steamed Rice Oven-browned Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Broccoli



Events

www.mccsyuma.org

JINGLE JAM

Friday
December 19, 2008
6:00PM - 9:00PM

Family Fun ★ Games ★ Food ★ Giveaways
In front of the Marine Mart

Draw a token and receive
5-50% off your purchases from
6:00PM-9:00PM

Offer not valid with any other discounts or on liquor, tobacco, fuel, firearms or selected fine jewelry.

Huge assortment of prizes
will be given away!
Grand prize 1 TW Carat diamond ring

KOFA Choir Performing

Get your FREE picture
taken with Santa

Kids can make their own frame to put their Santa picture in.



5 TICKETS WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH PERSON THAT HAS A MILITARY ID CARD. ID CARD MUST BE PRESENTED WHEN RECEIVING TICKETS AND WHEN PRIZE IS PICKED UP. ANYONE 10 YEAR AND OLDER THAT HAS A MILITARY ID CARD WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER DRAWINGS.

MCCS EMPLOYEES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.





ADS

SPORTS

Marines claim victory at annual Toys for Tots flag football game

Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre
Desert Warrior Staff

The Marine Fighter Training Squadron 401 team won the 4th annual Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots flag football game 19-16, Friday, at the Yuma High School stadium, redeeming their last two losses and raising gifts for less fortunate children.

The Marines played against an all-star high school team made up of players from Kofa, Cibola, San Luis and Yuma High School.

The first touchdown was scored by the Marines

when Capt. Andrew Miller, the quarterback for the team and F-5 Tiger jet pilot, ran the ball into the endzone in the first quarter of the game. They completed a one-point conversion for a total of seven points.

The all-star high school team scored twice and successfully completed two-point conversions each time for a total of 16 points in the first half.

A reception by Sgt. Allen McBride, wide receiver and operations clerk, brought the Marines to 13 points by the end of the second quarter.

Trailing by three points at the start of the second half, the Marines managed to hold the all-stars off at the goal line.

Sgt. Abel Torres, tailback and aviations supply

clerk, scored the last touchdown for the final score of 19-16.

With only 27 seconds left on the clock, the Marines intercepted the ball. This made VMFT-401 victorious as the game ended and both teams lined up to congratulate each other.

“I feel excited, it’s a good cause. It gives a chance for the community, as well as the Marine Corps, to get together and hopefully generate a lot of toys,” said Staff Sgt. Edwin Jose, defensive linebacker and ground supply chief.

“It’s great! Anytime we can give anything for free to a less fortunate crowd, especially kids, it’s good,” said Sgt. Henry Calderon, wide receiver and opera-

tions clerk.

The admission to the game was one new, unwrapped toy. Once inside, attendees received raffle tickets and prizes were awarded by Miss Yuma County 2009, Antigone Mitchell. She also conducted the coin toss before start of the game.

Additional members from VMFT-401 helped out with the concession stand.

It’s good to help out, especially with the economy affecting a lot more people, said retired Master Sgt. Ross Chapa, linebacker and also a base safety specialist.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre

After lining up and congratulating each other, the Marine Fighter Training Squadron 401 flag football team invited their friendly competitors, the all-star team made up of Yuma, Kofa, Cibola and San Luis high schools for a photograph on Yuma High School’s football field Friday. VMFT-401 took the win this year, 19-16, but both teams’ ultimate goal was met when they were able to raise six boxes of toys for less fortunate children.



The quarterback for the Marine Fighter Training Squadron 401 team, Capt. Andrew Miller, runs past defenders before his flag gets yanked Friday, during the 4th annual Marine Corps Toys for Toys at the Yuma High School stadium. Rushing for one of their three touchdowns himself, this was his first year playing in the annual Toys for Tots flag football game.